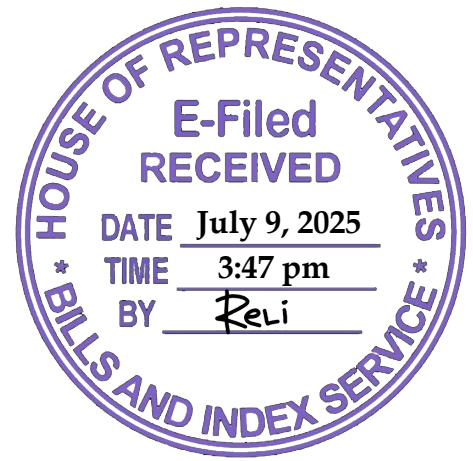


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1680



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

**AN ACT GRANTING FREE VACCINATION FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR
CITIZENS ACT OF 2010," AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The elderly population in the Philippines faces heightened vulnerability to infectious diseases due to the natural decline in immunity that comes with aging, compounded by chronic health conditions common in later life. Vaccination is a proven, cost-effective public health strategy that prevents disease and reduces complications, especially among senior citizens.

While Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," as amended, provides for free influenza and pneumococcal vaccinations for indigent seniors, the current policy is limited in scope and fails to address the broader needs of the entire senior population. Outbreaks of diseases such as measles, pertussis, shingles, and diphtheria continue to threaten public health, particularly in high-risk groups like older adults.

As such, this bill seeks to amend Section 4(f) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, by broadening the scope of free vaccinations available to all senior citizens, not just those considered indigent. The measure mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to provide additional vaccines deemed necessary, including but not limited to tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, shingles, and measles, in addition to influenza and pneumococcal vaccines. By institutionalizing a broader immunization program for the elderly, this legislation aims to prevent debilitating illnesses and reduce healthcare costs for the senior citizens.

In line with the government's commitment to uphold the right to health and promote

active aging, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully and earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo' with a stylized flourish.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Free Vaccination for All*
2 *Senior Citizens Act .*”

3 SEC. 2. Section 4 (f) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257,
4 further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior
5 Citizens Act of 2010,” shall be hereby further amended to read as follows:

6 “SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. - The senior citizens shall be
7 entitled to the following:

8 xxx

9 (f) the DOH shall administer free vaccination against **TETANUS,**
10 **DIPHTERIA, PERTUSSIS, SHINGLES, MEASLES,** influenza virus,
11 pneumococcal disease, **AND OTHER SIMILAR APPROVED**
12 **VACCINATIONS WHICH THE DOH DEEMS NECESSARY FOR**
13 **THE PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL** senior citizen
14 patients;”

15 SEC. 3. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall
16 be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Health (DOH) in the current and
17 subsequent General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued
18 implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in
19 the annual General Appropriations.

20 SEC. 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within six (6) months from the
21 approval of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), DOH,
22 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and the National Commission of Senior
23 Citizens (NCSC), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and
24 guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

25 SEC. 5. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or rules and regulations
26 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or

1 amended accordingly. Furthermore, if any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and
3 effect.

4 SEC. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

6 *Approved,*